

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-12. (Cancelled.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for molding a mold using a flask unit to be incorporated in a flaskless molding machine that has a pair of pressing members for pressing molding sand, wherein the flask unit is formed of a pair of flasks for containing molding sand, wherein each flask comprises a body that defines an opening in which a ~~[[sand]]~~ half mold is to be molded, said body having an inlet for introducing said ~~[[mold]]~~ molding sand into said opening, and ~~[[a]]~~ mounting member members attached to ~~[[said]]~~ each body ~~that are opposed to each other across the opening of the body for slidably mounting said flask each body~~ on a plurality of connecting ~~arms that are adapted rods~~ ~~[[to]]~~ that integrally connect the body of one flask to the body of the other another flask ~~[[such]]~~ to form said flask unit so that the one flask and the other flask can be moved between a position where they are opposed to and spaced apart from, each other to a position where they are spaced apart from each other, while they are supported by sliding the mounting members of each body along said connecting ~~[[arms]]~~ rods, said method comprising the steps of:

moving the flasks of the flask unit toward each other from the spaced apart position to the opposed position by sliding said opposed mounting members of the body of each flask along said connecting rods of the flask unit;

defining a pair of molding spaces by inserting each ~~pressuring~~ pressing member into each opening of the body of said pair of flasks ~~that is formed from~~ of said flask unit;

introducing ~~[[said]]~~ molding sand into said pair of molding spaces through said inlets of said bodies; and

molding ~~two half-molds~~ a half-mold in each flask of said flask unit to form a pair of half-molds by pressing said introduced molding sand with said pressing members.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as-in of claim 13, ~~wherein it further-comprises~~ including a step of moving said flask unit back and forth between a position where said defining step is carried out and a position where said introducing step is carried out.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as-in of claim 14, wherein said ~~pressing~~ molding step is carried out ~~on a path on which~~ while said ~~moving~~ flask unit is being moved back to said defining step position.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as-in of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 14, wherein said ~~pressing that is carried out on said path~~ molding step is carried out before said flask unit is moved back to said defining step position.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as-in of any one of claims 13 to 16, ~~wherein it further-comprises~~ including a step of moving said pair of half-molds in said flask unit flasks to a position where a core is to be fitted within each half-mold after said ~~pressing~~ molding step.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as-in of any one of claims 13 to 16, ~~wherein it further-comprises~~ including a step of moving said pair of half-molds in

said flask-unit flasks to a position where ~~[[said]]~~ a mold formed from said pair of half-molds is removed from the flask unit.

19-22. (Cancelled).

23, (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as-in of claim 13, wherein said defining step simultaneously defines said pair of molding spaces.

24. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as-in of claim 13, wherein said defining step defines one molding space and another the other molding space of the pair of molding spaces at different times.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as-in of claim 13, wherein said defining step is completed before said introducing step.

26. (Withdrawn/Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as-in of claim 13, wherein said introducing step includes at least one additional defining step.

27-31. (Cancelled).